



Ninety-Seventh Legislature - Second Session - 2002
Committee Statement
LB 1229

Hearing Date: February 12, 2002

Committee On: Urban Affairs

Introducer(s): (Hartnett)

Title: Change city of the metropolitan class transit authority board membership provisions

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File

Advanced to General File with Amendments

X Indefinitely Postponed

Vote Results:

7 Yes Connealy, Hartnett, Janssen, McDonald, Preister, Redfield and
Synowiecki

No

Present, not voting

Absent

Proponents:

Senator Hartnett

Representing:

Introducer

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Chris Abboud

Representing:

Metro Area Transit

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

This bill proposes to amend the Transit Authority Law which provides the authority for the creation and operation of a metropolitan transit authority to provide mass transit services to the residents of a metropolitan class city and surrounding areas (Sec. 14-1801 to Sec. 14-1826).

The current authority, the Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (serving primarily the Omaha Metropolitan Area) is governed by a board of five members. They are appointed by the mayor with the approval of the city council of the metropolitan class city and the county board of the county in which the city is located. The terms of the appointed members are for five years and the terms are staggered (one member is appointed or reappointed each year).

All of the members of the authority board must be residents of the city for which the board was created.

Recognizing that the transit authority serving Omaha now also serves large portions of unincorporated Douglas and Sarpy Counties as well as the cities of Bellevue, Papillion, and

LaVista, this legislation would take a modest step toward expanding the scope of board representation to permit the next appointed member of the board (if the mayor, city council, and county board agreed by resolution to do so) to be a resident of the area served by the authority but outside of the corporate boundaries of the city. As the terms of current members of the board expired, additional members of the board could also be non-residents of the metropolitan class city.

The legislature has often acknowledged the importance of permitting non-residents to serve on boards or commissions which serve primarily (if not exclusively) a single city. From planning commissions and planning boards to metropolitan utilities districts, both elected and appointed non-resident membership has been authorized.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

Senator D. Paul Hartnett, Chairperson